THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission have undertaken a comprehensive mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Recommendations about the actions necessary to achieve the growth targets of the Plan are set out in the mid-term appraisal document.

Manufacturing of the Piper Aircraft by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

1597. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan to manufacture Piper aircraft in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has run into rough weather; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and remedial measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) This question does not arise as M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have only recently submitted to the Government their report on the feasibility and viabiliy of the production of light executive aircraft based on their discussions with M/s Piper Aircraft Corporation U.S.A.

(b) Does not arise.

Family Courts

1598. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family courts set up so far in different States, State-wise; and

(b) the reasons for not setting up such courts in the States where these have not been set up so far and by when they are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Four family courts one each in the States of Rajasthan and Karnataka and two in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been set up.

(b) It is for the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to set up such courts and as such it is not possible to indicate any definite time by which such courts will be set up in the other States.

Production of Atomic Energy Plants

1599. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the atomic energy plants in the country which have gone into production of energy;

(b) the quantity of energy expected to be produced by them annually and the cost of their production per unit; and

(c) how does this cost compare with the cost of the energy produced from sources like coal and petroleum crude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC EVERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) There are two nuclear power generating units each at Tarapur (2x160 MWe), Rawatbhatta (2x220MWe) and Kalpakkam (2x235MWe).

(b) The total energy expected to be generated by all these units during 1987-88 is 5560 MUs. The electricity generation cost in nuclear power stations ranges from about 37 paise/kwh to 45 paise/kwh.

(c) The cost per unit of energy produced at nuclear stations is comparable with the cost per unit of energy produced at thermal power stations which are commissioned at approximately the same time.

Chief of Army Staff's Remarks regarding Indian Intervention in Sri Lanka

1600. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Army Staff has made some remarks in an interview in the "Indian Defence Review" regarding the merits of the Indian intervention in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether these remarks have raised a controversy;

(c) whether such remarks are in consonance with the high traditions of political neutrality maintained by the Indian Army; and

(d) whether Government has brought this to the notice of the Chief of Army Staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The Chief of Army Staff in his interview to the "Indian Defence Review", had expressed his concern over doubts and reservations being expressed in some quarters regarding the presence of the IPKF in Sri Lanka, because such expressions could have an adverse impact on the morale of the personnel of the IPKF. His remarks had no political bias but were aimed at ensuring that the Defence personnel, because of such discussions, might not have occasion to doubt the legality of their presence in Sri Lanka and the legitimacy of the operations they are engaged in.

For the Chief of the Army Staff the morale of his men is a very legitimate concern. Therefore, the remarks have in no way undermined the high traditions of political neutrality of the Armed Forces of the country.

Government are aware of some reactions in the press to the remarks of the Chief of Army Staff, but are not aware of any controversy as such.

Refusal to Plan Allocation for Railways

1601. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has refused an allocation of Rs. 4,300 crores for the Railways' Annual Plan for 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) An outlay of Rs. 3,850 crores has been earmarked for the Railway's Annual Plan 1988-89. This level of investment is considered appropriate to meet the projected traffic on the Railways and the development of the sector in accordance with the Seventh Plan priorities.

Indian Casualties in Siachen due to High Altitudinal Problems

1602. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a number of casualties of Indian soldiers due to frost, high altitudinal problems on Siachen Glacier;

(b) if so, what is the number of soldiers who died due to arctic conditions on Siachen Glacier so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to remove the deficiencies in the arrangements/facilities to fight the climatic conditions at such a high altitude to prevent the casualities of Indian soldiers?